

EXHIBIT A



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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0002474 A1****Michelson et al.**(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 3, 2002**(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SELECTING
AND RECRUITING INVESTIGATORS AND
SUBJECTS FOR CLINICAL STUDIES****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. CL⁷** **G06F 17/60**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/3**(76) **Inventors:** **Leslie Dennis Michelson, Beverly
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The present invention is directed to an integrated on-line interactive forum that promotes exchange of information among clinical study sponsors, clinical study investigators, and potential clinical study subjects. The forum includes an investigator database that contains information suitable for identification of qualified investigators for clinical studies and a subject database that contains information suitable for identification of eligible subjects for clinical studies. An extranet is coupled to the investigator database and the subject database. The extranet allows sponsors and investigators to exchange securely documents required to start a clinical study. The forum also optionally includes one or more web pages that provide information describing clinical studies to potential clinical study subjects and permit potential clinical study subjects to register for inclusion in the subject database. A therapeutic incidence area database is also optionally integrated into the forum.

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